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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~CONFIRMATION REPORT~~

COUNTRY

Austria: INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

Remarks by Communist Party Functionaries on Partition of Austria and Soviet Government Change

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- During a conference of the Austrian People's Opposition (Communist) in Carinthia in the middle of February 1955, Dr. Wilhelm Steiner, chairman of the KZ Verband, spoke on reasons why Austrians should vigorously oppose West German rearmament. According to Steiner, Austria's fate is tied in with that of Germany. If the great powers are unable to come to an agreement on the German and Austrian problem, the same thing will happen to Austria that happened to Germany, i.e., as soon as the partition of Germany has become final, a partition of Austria will also be inevitable.
- During a KPOe meeting in Carinthia during February 1955, Dr. Walter Fischer, a speaker sent by the KPOe Central Committee, explained to a small group why it was necessary for Premier Malenkov to resign. According to Fischer, the Soviet change of command was dictated by the events in the Far East. A dangerous situation, carrying with it the dangers of war, had developed here, caused on the one hand by the declaration of the Red Chinese government that Formosa must be liberated, and on the other hand by the declaration of the United States government that Formosa must be defended. Since the Soviet Union is allied to the Chinese People's Republic by a mutual assistance pact, she could, under certain conditions, be required to honor her treaty obligations. Such a situation would necessarily call for a reorganization of the Soviet government because while Malenkov may be a good party man, he is not a military expert. His place had to be taken by a military specialist, so that the Soviet Union will be ready to strike, if war should come.

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